

REMARKS

In the outstanding office action dated October 03, 2003, the Examiner states that the application includes the following invention groupings: (I) claims 1-14, drawn to a reactor for processing a hazardous gas; and (II) claims 15-17, drawn to a method for processing a hazardous gas. The Examiner alleges that the enumerated groups represent patentably distinct inventions and thus, under 35 U.S.C. §121, Applicant is required to elect a single disclosed invention for prosecution on the merits.

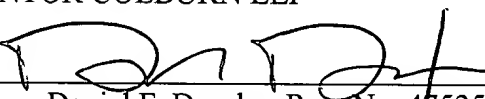
In response to the outstanding office action, Applicant herein elects group number one (I) directed toward claims 1-14 for prosecution on the merits. Correspondingly, non-elected claims 15-17 are canceled as being directed to non-elected claim groups. Applicant, however, reserves the right to pursue the non-elected claims in related applications without prejudice in respect of the present amendment or otherwise.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the outstanding restriction requirement and examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' attorneys at the below-indicated telephone number regarding this response or otherwise concerning the present application. Please charge any required fees for this response, or otherwise concerning the present application, to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by Applicant's attorney.

Respectfully submitted,
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